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The Netherlands

Poultry and Products

Update of the Avian Influenza Outbreaks in The Netherlands 2003

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Report Highlights:

**So far positively diagnosed farms are only found in the center of The Netherlands.
The Ministry of Agriculture is still fearing a second wave of outbreaks.**

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1], NL

Current Status of the Avian Influenza Outbreaks in The Netherlands.

At the moment, The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture was imposed four Control Areas. Two of these zones are located in Gelderland (Eastern-Central Netherlands), one in Zeeland (extreme Southwestern Netherlands), and one in Brabant (South Central Netherlands) as a result of an outbreak over the border in Belgium. The number of suspect farms and positively diagnosed farms increased from 50 to 67 during the past two days. Of these farms, 31 farms have been positively diagnosed for Avian Influenza. All of these 31 farms are located in the Control Area around Barneveld in Gelderland. Results of preliminary tests of the suspected farm in Zeeland were negative. Until today, all incidents of Avian Influenza originate from the period before the transport restrictions were imposed by the Dutch government. The Ministry of Agriculture still fears second wave of outbreaks originating from contamination occurring after when restrictions were imposed.

The Ministry of Health stated that a farmer and four people responsible for culling have been infected by the Avian Influenza virus. The infection results in an inflammation near the eye and is regarded as relatively harmless.

The Dutch Poultry Sector is Significantly Affected by the AI Outbreak.

As of yesterday, 1.6 million birds have been culled on 89 farms. It is expected that 2.3 million birds on 177 farms will have to be culled. The poultry flock in The Netherlands is about 100 million. Because of the transport restrictions, slaughterhouses lack live poultry to slaughter and retail will increasingly rely on poultry meat imports. The Poultry Farmers Organization expects that the restrictions on hatching egg transport will begin to drastically affect poultry numbers by the end of next week. The Ministry of Agriculture stated that sixteen countries outside the EU have closed their borders to all Dutch poultry products.

Permitted Transport of Poultry Products.				
	Control Areas	Outside Control Areas	Import	Export
Table Eggs	no	yes	yes	yes
Hatching Eggs	no	no	no	no
Live Poultry	no	no	no	no
Poultry Meat	no	yes	yes	*yes

* While there are no Dutch or EU restrictions on meat exports, we estimate very few are occurring at this moment.